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Two Sections SIXTEEN PAGES

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DEATH OF GEO. GADDIS

Prominent, Wealthy Alliance Citizen, in Temporary Fit of Insanity, Takes Own Life.

BODY BROUGHT HOME

The body of Geo. D. Gaddis, a wealthy Box Butte county pioneer and resident of Alliance, was discovered hanging at the end of a rope from the top of a hay stack on the ranch known as the old Hubbell ranch, at 6:15 o'clock Wednesday morning.

At the coroner's inquest, held at one o'clock yesterday afternoon, a verdict of suicide was rendered. As will be shown by the report of the inquest given below, Mr. Gaddis had been worrying about his health and despondency over his sickness was undoubtedly the cause of his rash act.

There are several buildings grouped together at the Hubbell ranch, which lies two miles from the well known Ev. Eldred ranch. Part of the buildings are frame and part of them sod. Mr. Gaddis has been employed as a stock inspector for the government, working under Dr. Campbell of Alliance. He drove to the ranch from Alliance on Monday, arriving there at 3:10 that afternoon.

Mr. Gaddis was a quiet and taciturn sort of man, talking very little. The men at the ranch were not very well acquainted with him and noticed nothing out of the way in his actions. He slept Monday night in one of the houses with Lester Beck who was formerly an Alliance High school boy.

Tuesday evening at five o'clock as he passed the harness room with his horse he took a heavy rope used as a halter rope with him to the barn in which his horse was stabled, presumably to use in tying his horse. This is the rope with which he killed himself. It was about eight feet in length.

Tuesday evening he sat in the bunk house sitting room with the men, and although he talked none he listened to them and gave no indication of what was on his mind. His wife went to the house in which he and Lester Beck slept at about nine o'clock, and after talking a little they retired.

He undressed as usual, placing his clothes at the foot of the bed on a box. Lester did not miss him after that until about four o'clock yesterday morning, when he awoke and found that Mr. Gaddis was not in bed. Lester supposed that he had overslept as it was then getting light.

The men fed their horses and did their chores without noticing anything wrong and went to breakfast at about six o'clock. While they were eating, a boy by the name of Orville Halstead, who had stayed overnight with a family by the name of Jones, living near, arrived for his breakfast and noticed the body swinging in the high wind, hanging from the top of the stacker. As shown by his testimony, he went into the bunk house, washed his hands, then went to the eating house and said to the men eating, who were Willis Beck, Howard Beck, Roy Smith, Ben Hollister and Charley Murphy, "Do you know that Mr. Gaddis is hanging to the stacker?" They thought he was joking at first, as they supposed Mr. Gaddis to be still in bed.

He persisted, however, and they all ran out to where the stacker could be seen and found that he was telling the truth. They immediately went to the gate near the stacker, but no one came within probably 20 feet of the body, which hung there until the auto containing Coroner Stagle, Sheriff Cox, Lincoln Lowry and Lloyd C. Thomas arrived from Alliance, getting there ten minutes after twelve o'clock. There was no phone on the ranch and two of the men Roy Smith and Charley Murphy, rode horseback to the Eldred ranch phoning to Alliance.

Immediately after arriving at the ranch the four men who came in the

auto took down the body and after untying the rope, placed the body in the automobile. After questioning the men Coroner Stagle called an inquest, the following men forming the jury which was empaneled: Ernest Hiskett, Paullett; Henry Jones Ben Hollister, Roy Smith and W. W. Beck, Orlando; and Chas. E. Murphy, Lakeside.

The following was the testimony taken by the jury:

Witness Orville Halstead

Q. Tell us what you saw this morning. A. I saw Mr. Gaddis hanging to the stacker when I came over from Jones' to breakfast.

Q. At what time? A. 6:15.

Q. Did you come into the bunk house and wash? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who were at the tables when you went into the eating house? A. Willis Beck, Howard Beck, Roy Smith, Charley Murphy and Ben Hollister.

Q. What did you tell them? A. I asked them if they knew that Mr. Gaddis was hanging to the stacker. They thought I was joking. Then they ran out and looked.

Q. Did anyone go to the body? A. No one.

Q. What did they decide to do? A. To phone from Eldred's to Alliance for the officers.

Q. Who went to Eldred's? A. Roy Smith and Charley Murphy.

Witness Roy Smith

Q. Were you in the house when Orville came in? A. Yes. We all ran outside and looked.

Q. Had you been talking about Gaddis? A. No, sir.

Q. Were you with him the evening before? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where did you sleep? A. At the other house. (The inquest was held in the main bunk house.)

Q. Had you noticed anything out of the ordinary with him? A. No, sir.

Q. Was he here two nights? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did he appear about the same both nights? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where did Gaddis get the rope? A. From the saddle room.

Q. What is it used for? A. To tie up the horses.

Q. Did he need the rope to tie the mare with? A. Not that I know of.

Q. At what time did he get the rope? A. Five o'clock.

Q. Had he said anything to indicate his intention? A. No, sir.

Q. Was he worried last night? A. Well, he was quiet. He is naturally quiet.

Q. Did he eat supper? A. Yes, but he is not a hearty eater.

Q. Was he looking at the stacker yesterday? A. There was a cow in there. He seemed afraid of her. I ran the cow out. He stood there looking at the stacker—north.

Q. What time was that? A. Ten o'clock in the morning.

Witness Lester Beck

Q. Were you in bed when Mr. Gaddis came to the house last evening? A. No, sir. I was waiting for him. He came to the door. It is always hard to open, and I sprang forward to help him open it, but he got it open first. He said, "How do you do." I answered, "You have a severe cold, Mr. Gaddis." He said, "Yes, I have caught cold."

Q. Was he gone when you woke up? A. Yes, he was gone.

Q. What time was that? A. Daylight.

Q. What time was daylight? A. About four o'clock.

Q. Was the bed where he had slept warm? A. I did not notice. I thought he had gone to breakfast.

Q. What time was breakfast? A. About six o'clock.

Q. What time did he go to bed? A. At nine o'clock.

Questioning of other witnesses developed the fact that he had talked Tuesday afternoon about the poor health which he suffered, how he had gone to California and it had done him no good, and how he feared that it would compel him to give up his present occupation. It also developed that he had walked up and down outside the buildings for some time in the evenings.

The following verdict was brought in by the jury: "We, the jury, find that Geo. D. Gaddis came to his death by his own hand by hanging himself to the hay stacker at B-k's ranch, on section 34, township 22, range 45, Garden county, on the morning of April 23rd, 1913."

No Message Left

A sad and strange fact was that no farewell message was left friends or loved ones. Although he had dressed himself fully, tying his necktie and knotting his handkerchief around his neck, a thorough search failed to reveal any trace of message. The only thing that seemed to have

any bearing whatever on his suicide was a clipping which he had cut from The Alliance Herald of last week, and which he had placed in a receipt book in one of his pockets:

What's the Use "You enter this world without your consent. You go thru life without getting what you want, and you leave it whether you are ready or not."

"When you are a helpless babe, the women all kiss you; and when you are grown up they won't reciprocate."

"If you save money, the trusts get it. If you are poor, people blame you; if you are rich they envy you. If you are religious they call you a hypocrite; if you are not, they say you are damned. If you spend your money they call you a fool; if you save it they call you stingy. If you are pleasant they call you a jollifier; if you are not, they call you a groucher."

"Just because I send you this post card you say I am too mean to buy a two-cent stamp or too lazy to write a letter, so

WHAT IS THE USE?"

Mr. Gaddis leaves a host of sorrowing friends to mourn his death and to find some comfort in the fact that his constant brooding over ill health probably unbalanced his mind. Death undoubtedly instantaneous, his neck being broken by the fall, so that he endured no suffering.

The following article, taken from The Alliance Herald of April 8, 1904, gives a part of his life's history and an account of his settling in Box Butte county. He had not been living on his 3,000 acre ranch just south of town for a couple of years, having resided in Alliance since renting it. The value of his estate is estimated at from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

Mr. Gaddis united with the Methodist church last summer and had been a constant, thorough Christian man. He had followed the teachings of the church and lived a clean, straight life. Following is the article referred to:

Geo. D. Gaddis

(From Alliance Herald, April 8, 1904.

Mr. Gaddis was born in McLean county, Ill., May 2, 1859. Owing to ill health he sought the invigorating atmosphere of western Nebraska.

With beneficial results in the year 1885. Not only did he recover his health, but he prospered in other ways. Mr. Gaddis filed on a homestead three and one-half miles southwest of Hemingford in the fall of 1885, settling thereon the following spring. After a residence of several years thereon, where he prospered, a change was made to the present location. His ranch contains 3,160 acres of valuable deeded land, and is stocked with 250 head of Durham cattle and a fine bunch of horses.

While prospecting in a financial way, Mr. Gaddis was called upon to suffer a loss most painful in being separated from his helpmate, who died March 30, 1901. He was united in marriage to this estimable lady, Miss Mary E. Andrews, in 1883. To them were born three children, two of whom preceded their mother to the immortal world. One son died in 1887 at the age of three and one-half years, and another boy of the same age departed this life in 1894.

While deprived of these jewels of his household Mr. Gaddis realizes that such is life and that all must sooner or later respond to the call of the invisible power which holds the destiny in the palm of his omnipotent hand. With a spirit possessed by the true man, the subject of this sketch pushed on in life's duties, ever remembering that this world belongs to the living, and with this noble inspiration, he has won a large circle of friends.

April 2, 1902, Mr. Gaddis again took unto himself a wife in the estimable person of Miss Belle C. Steele, and this happy couple have since resided on the ranch which is known today as a most hospitable home, where friends find a pleasant place to visit. This ranch, with its commodious home and other improvements, is an honor to the stock raising section of Nebraska.

King Operated on

Wm. King, who was taken seriously sick last week with ptomaine poisoning, which later developed into appendicitis, was operated on at the hospital this morning at ten o'clock. At the time this is written, two o'clock, he is getting along well and it is believed that he will recover.

Notice to Odd Fellows, Ecampment, Rebecas

On next Sunday evening the members of the above lodges and their families will meet at the I. O. O. F. hall in Alliance at seven o'clock, for the purpose of attending a sermon to be preached at the Christian church by Rev. F. A. Woten, in commemoration of the 97th anniversary of the founding of the Order in America. Regalia will be worn. By request of the officers of the lodges.

Notice to M. W. A.

All members of Box Butte Camp No. 733, Modern Woodmen of America, are requested to meet at the M. W. A. hall at 1 p.m., Saturday, April 25th, to attend in a body the funeral of Neighbor George Gaddis. W. R. HARPER, Counsel.

Notice to Kinkaiders

Homeskaders in the south half of Box Butte and Sheridan counties and the north part of Morrill and Garden counties are requested to call at The Herald office, or write us, before giving notice of their intention to make final proof. An experienced man will make out your papers free of charge and guarantee them to be correct. Readers of this paper who have neighbors that expect to make final proof the coming summer are requested to call their attention to this request, as it may otherwise escape their notice.

Jack Buras is improving rapidly. His friends were greatly worried the first of the week his condition was serious.

Horse Thief Skips

Woman Takes Auto to Reno, Catches Train for East. Man Rides Horse

Capture Expected Soon

Sunday afternoon the chief of police received the following letter from Oklahoma City, Okla., which is self explanatory. After it was received he located the woman who was living with a man claiming to be Mr. Berry, in a house in the east part of town. The couple learned that he was coming to the house. The man jumped thru a window and ran. The woman ran from the house secured a livery automobile and went in it to Reno, where she caught the first train east and has not been located since.

The man, who is described as being tall and wearing a light hat, caught train No. 42 going east Sunday night but was located by Special Night Deputy Charles Hill, who had the train stopped. The man jumped off, ran over the viaduct going south, and although Deputy Hill fired in the air a couple of times to stop him, he ran on south and escaped.

Sunday night a horse belonging to Frank Palmer was stolen, presumably by this man, who is said to have been seen riding it Monday at

Reno, going east. The horse has been traced a number of times on the Alliance track and is well known. It has a wire cut from shoulder to hip and is otherwise marked.

Sheriff Cal Cox went east on 44 Tuesday noon, bound for Whitman, where he hoped to intercept Berry, who if caught with the horse, will be returned here charged with horse stealing. It is not known what the charge is on which the Berry woman is wanted in Oklahoma City. The letter received Sunday reads as follows:

Oklahoma City, Okla., Apr. 16, 13. To the Chief of Police, Alliance, Nebr.

Dear Sir: I am endeavoring to locate a certain Mrs. Edna Berry, and have information leading me to believe that she is now in Alliance; at least she was there a week or two ago, probably in the company of a woman by the name of Anna Nell.

I will be greatly obliged to you if you will inform me if Mrs. Berry is now, or has been, at any resort in your city, or for any other information in regard to her which you may be able to give me. Of course, it is needless to say that I do not wish the lady to know that any inquiry has been made in reference to her, as she would probably take alarm and flee to some other locality. A telegram was sent to Mrs. Berry at Alliance about three or four weeks ago, and the address can be obtained without doubt from the Western Union office. I shall be under obligations to you if you will write me at your earliest convenience all that you can learn of the party mentioned. There may be something doing later on. Very truly, H. F. Butler.

Thompson Here

Harry L. Thompson, representing the wholesale department of the Schmoller & Mueller Piano Company of Omaha, arrived in Alliance Friday morning and started a piano sale that has been going with a bang ever since. As will be noted by the immense four-page advertisement in this issue of The Herald this sale is to last ten days. The Herald job department has had its hands full since Mr. Thompson's arrival, getting out full sheet posters, page lodgers, and circulars of different kinds.

That Mr. Thompson has the ability and knows how to get the business is demonstrated by the fact that he closed deals for three instruments on Saturday, the first day of the big sale. He has had fifteen years' experience with the big manufacturing firm of Schmoller & Mueller and is an expert at closing sales. He says that backed with the twenty-three different lines of pianos which they carry, he can get the business every time. His advertising is of a striking nature and attracts attention wherever seen. He will be in Alliance during the balance of the sale, at the piano salesrooms of Mrs. Ida M. Ross, local agent for Schmoller & Mueller. Mr. Thompson is an old acquaintance of Lloyd, having worked together when both were employed by Schmoller & Mueller eight years ago.

Legislators Adjourn

Hon. Earl D. Mallery, Box Butte County's Representative, Returns from State Capital.

New Laws Enacted

HON. EARL D. MALLERY

Hon. Earl D. Mallery, better known in Alliance and Box Butte county as plain "Earl", without any prefixes or other frills, returned Monday morning from Lincoln, where he spent the winter in attendance at the state legislature as representative from the 73rd district, composed of Box Butte and Sheridan counties. He went to Lincoln last winter with the determination to make a good record, and we guess he succeeded better than a good many other members. Frankly, the work of the present Nebraska legislature was not altogether satisfactory to The Herald, and we believe to the people of the state generally; but the shortcomings of the legislature as a whole should not be charged up to individual members who did their duty.

The thirty-third session of the Nebraska legislature adjourned sine die shortly before midnight, April 21. A complete list of the new enactments follows:

Bill Signed by Governor.

H. R. 152, by Jeary—Miscellaneous amendments to the Lincoln city charter.

H. R. 83, by Anderson of Kearney—Makes the state treasurer, instead of a New York city bank, the fiscal agent of the state, at whose office all state and local bonds are payable; New York bank retained as fiscal agent for outstanding bonds where payment is already specified in New York; treasurer may charge city, village or county expenses of bond and interest payments.

H. R. 65, by McKissick and Schauss—Permits expenditure of inheritance tax fund for any road improvement (former law only for permanent improvement); repeals requirement that such improvement begin at corporate limits of some city; allows counties of less than 50,000 population to use fund for improvement of any cut, fill or highway (formerly under 30,000), letting of contract by competitive bids not required in such cases. Emergency.

H. R. 18, by Brain—Provides that advertisement of election for issuance of sewer bonds may be by posting four placards in prominent places, in case village has no newspaper. Emergency.

H. R. 197, by Bollen—Provides procedure for condemnation of land for use of state institutions or state fair, governor to appoint six appraisers. Emergency.

H. R. 68, by Wood—Permits a maximum school levy of thirty-five mills instead of twenty-five mills, and re-

quires senate board to certify estimate for coming year to county clerk at each annual meeting. Emergency.

H. R. 166, by Banks—Ratification of the federal constitution amendment for the direct election of United States senators.

S. F. 24, by Hoagland of Lancaster—Requires double-shift firemen's service in city of Lincoln.

H. R. 92, by Norton—Proposes a constitutional amendment to permit reform of state tax system, reading as follows: "The rules of taxation shall be uniform as to any given class and taxes shall be levied upon such property as the legislature shall prescribe. Taxes may be imposed on incomes, privileges and occupations, which taxes may be graduated and progressive, and reasonable exemptions may be provided, in addition to those hereinafter specifically mentioned in Section 2 of this article."

S. F. 23, by Bartling—A Sunday baseball bill. Strikes the word "sporting" out of anti-Sunday amendment statute; specifically permits baseball in a village or city when a majority of the voters expressing an opinion on the question so vote, or in a county outside the corporate limits, when the county board so votes. Emergency.

S. F. 124, by Bushee—Permits state aid to weak school districts to maintain a seven months term (present law five months); but not more than one school in each district can receive aid unless each serves at least twelve square miles (formerly 24); maximum permissible expense \$375 (formerly \$275).

S. F. 12, by Bushee—Provides that county clerk of county wherein is a fraction of a joint school district shall certify amount of taxable property therein to county clerk of county wherein school house is located.

S. F. 466, by Hoagland of Lancaster—Provides for an excise board in Lincoln, under commission form of government. Emergency.

S. F. 11, by Bushee—Provides penalties for diverting or otherwise interfering with an irrigation canal.

H. R. 234, by Cronin—Appropriates \$0 per cent of one-fifth mill state and bridge levy, 1913-1915.

S. F. 2, by Smith—Levies a 2 per cent tax upon the gross earnings of all express companies on inter-state business.

H. R. 8, by Potts—Appropriates \$20,000 for incidental expenses of state legislature. Emergency.

H. R. 9, by Potts—Appropriates \$120,000 for the salaries of the legislature. Emergency.

(Continued on Page Five.)



HON. EARL D. MALLERY